

## **CIF Hellas IPEP 2022**

**Written by Lars-Christian Christiansen participant from Germany**

In the following text I will share some of my memories related to my participation in the CIF-Hellas Program. I already applied for the program in 2020 and fortunately got accepted. But then the Corona virus entered the world stage and destroyed any kind of travel plans. Finally, after two long years of waiting the CIF-Hellas Program took place from 14<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

First of all, I must say that it was an impressive program with so many exciting impressions and I can't tell all of them. So this are just some of my memories I would like to share.

The arrival in Athens was warm in two kind of ways- the welcome meeting as well as the weather.

We started with a orientation seminar to get to know each other. That was very helpful. In the following two weeks we visited a lot of different agencies. Some of them where: National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA), the Aeginio Psychiatric Hospital, Atrapos OKANA, the Juvenile Probation Office, the Department of Support and Social Integration for Refugees, ELPIDA Friends Association of children with cancer and the KETHEA-STROFI.

We learned a lot about the social system and social work in Greece. About the accomplishments as well as the challenges the professionals are facing.

We also saw the beauty of the country. We visited the famous Acropolis, the Herodion Theatre and went to Vravona an archeological place outside Athens.

After finishing the program, I continued to travel to Crete where I hiked the amazing Samaria Gorge and then to Santorini where I enjoyed my off days.

I'm very thankful to the people of CIF-Hellas who makes this experience possible and unforgettable.



